

Stakeholder Interview Summary

Interviews with stakeholders were conducted over the phone and centered on a series of questions on who lives within the community, what kinds of activities take place in the community, what key destinations exist and where mobility improvements are needed. The following individuals were interviewed, with a summary of their comments provided below:

Marge Sperry - Old Castle Building Envelope

Marge Sperry is a representative at Old Castle Building Envelope located at Buckeye Road and 35th Avenue.

- Mostly visit fast food restaurants in the area during 30-minute lunch break.
- People do not travel as far as I-10.
- Many employees go to the Circle-K on Buckeye Road west of 35th Avenue – which is also a busy arterial).
- Just south of Old Castle Building Envelope is a rehab shelter and the Phoenix Rescue Mission. Both organizations are on 35th Avenue.
- Many clients from the nearby shelter and rehab center are employed by the Old Castle Building Envelope.
- The County animal shelter is also in the area.
- Most employees drive or ride the bus and get off at 35th Avenue and Buckeye Road, which is less than a ½ mile walk to the facility. Many people walk/bike on the sidewalks.
- Bike lanes on 35th Avenue would be a good idea.

Justin Essary - Community Tire Pros

Justin Essary is the manager of Community Tire Pros near Buckeye Road and 34th Avenue.

- Stakeholder mainly commutes to work and states that most of the people he knows of also use a vehicle to get around.
- 24th Street and Buckeye Road intersection is dangerous for pedestrian and bicyclists. There are many accidents that occur at this intersection.
- There are too many vehicles on the road. Everyone drives a vehicle to get around.
- Drivers are not aware of bicyclists and pedestrians and they speed.
- Many sidewalks are in disrepair
- Places are too far away to walk/bike.
- Traffic calming devices are needed coming out of the airport on 24th Street.

Michelle Lopez - Murphy School District

Michelle Lopez is the main administrative assistant for the school.

- The most popular destination within the mobility area is the Health Center on 31st and Buckeye.
- Popular destinations outside of the mobility area include outlet malls like Arizona Mills, the Arizona Center, Walmart at 35th and Southern, Food City on 27th and Van Buren.
- The most common way to get around in the area is by car or bus.
- Areas to avoid are 27th Avenue and Jefferson (going southbound) due to accidents and Kuban Park at night due to loitering and inadequate lighting.
- There are too many industrial uses, which are not conducive to walking,
- There aren't enough sidewalks or bike lanes.
- There are not enough safe places to cross the street between intersections.
- Vehicles drive too fast.
- 31st Avenue and Buckeye Road intersection needs pedestrian amenities such as a HAWK or a refuge and more sidewalks are needed.

Jose Trevizo - Jack L Kuban Elementary School

Jose Trevizo is the principal for Jack L. Kuban Elementary School next to Kuban Park on Sherman St..

- Destinations include the Kuban Elementary School and Food City on 35th Avenue and Van Buren Street.
- Mobility issues include north or south on 31st Avenue. Most people stay close by because there no other destinations nearby. Some go west to 43rd Avenue and as far east as 19th Avenue.
- Other mobility issues and areas of concern include motorists driving fast on 31st Avenue and Sherman Street, and safety.
- Students would prefer to walk/bike to school but the transient population, loose dogs, and drug activity create an unsafe environment. Also, there is no clear path and not enough sidewalks.
- Mobility improvements include more transit services, and speed bumps east and west on Sherman Street.

Ahlee Larson - R & C Trading

Ahlee runs a business that operates out of a warehouse on Buckeye Road and 35th Avenue. She supervises employees and handles freight logistics.

- Most employees live outside the area and must travel through the study area as part of their commute. Truck drivers come to the facility via I-10 and Buckeye Road to pick up goods from RC Trading for delivery to locations outside of the mobility area.
- One of the things that make it hard for trucks to enter the business is homeless people along Buckeye Road. The homeless population also makes it uncomfortable for employees to walk to/from their cars in the morning and after their shifts.
- Trucks have difficulty entering the business from Buckeye Road during rush hour.

Eva Olivas – Phoenix Revitalization Corporation (PRC)

Eva is the executive director of PRC and has been actively involved in the South Phoenix/Central Phoenix areas for many years.

- Mobility problems stem from multiple causes including lack of lighting, shade and security.
- The Health Clinic associated with Murphy School District is an important destination for residents.
- One of the main issues preventing pedestrian and bicyclist activity within the mobility area is that Buckeye Road is blighted and there are not many places people want to go. A grocery store and chain dollar store is needed.
- Improvements needed include eliminating the loose dog issue, installing better lighting and creating more shade along sidewalks.
- Transit is used a great deal within the area.